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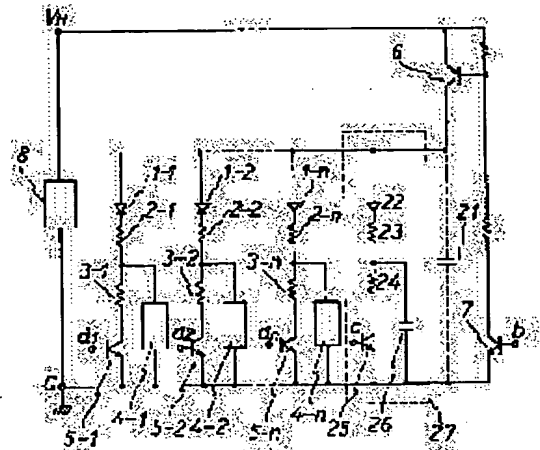
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(54) INK JET RECORDER

(57)Abstract:

PURPOSE: To prevent printing quality from deteriorating by lightening an influence of stray capacity in a driving circuit of a multi-nozzle on demand type ink jet recording head.

CONSTITUTION: An influence of stray capacity 21 of a circuit board which varies a charge/discharge time constant of a piezoelectric element, is lightened by driving a capacitive load 26 of a dummy load part 27 in synchronization with piezoelectric elements 4-1 to 4-n by providing the dummy load part 27, and printing quality is prevented from deteriorating.



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CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] The ink pressurized room in which the ink which should be breathed out is stored, and the nozzle which is open for free passage to this ink pressurized room, Have two or more sets of piezoelectric devices to which the variation rate of the wall of said ink pressurized room is carried out, and one side is prepared in each of two or more sets of said piezoelectric devices according to an individual among the charge switching element which performs the charge and discharge of this piezoelectric device, and a discharge switching element. In the ink jet recording device of the multi-nozzle mold on demand which prepares another side common to said two or more sets of piezoelectric devices, performs the charge and discharge of said piezoelectric device according to a printing command, raises the fluid pressure of said ink pressurized room, and carries out the regurgitation of the ink droplet from said nozzle While at least one or more capacitive loads are prepared, one side shares the switching element prepared common to said piezoelectric device among the charge-and-discharge circuits of this capacitive load and another side prepares the switching element according to individual The ink jet recording device characterized by performing the charge and discharge of said capacitive load synchronizing with the charge and discharge of said piezoelectric device.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Industrial Application] This invention relates to the ink jet recording device recorded by the regurgitation of an ink droplet.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] The principle of operation of an ink jet recording head is explained first. Drawing 2 is an example of an ink jet recording head which impresses a driving pulse to the piezoelectric device prepared in some wall surfaces of an ink pressurized room, and performs discharge record for an ink droplet from a nozzle. As for a piezoelectric device and 12, the ink pressurized room which 13 of drawing 2 opened for free passage with the ink tank, and 10 opened for free passage with the ink tank, and 4 are [a diaphragm and 11] nozzles. Drawing 3 is the drive circuit of the above-mentioned ink jet recording head. Drawing 4 (a) - (c) is the drive timing chart of the above-mentioned ink jet recording head, and a driver voltage wave: Drawing 2 , drawing 3 , and drawing 4 explain actuation of an ink jet recording head. Time of day t1 of drawing 4 A transistor 7, a transistor 6, and a transistor 5 are in an OFF state before, and a piezoelectric device 4 is an electrical potential difference V_H mostly. It charges (it charges through the charge resistance element 2 at the power up of a recording apparatus by making a transistor 6 into an ON state as initial actuation.).

[0003] This condition is in a standby condition, and as shown in drawing 5 , the piezoelectric device 4 has bent. The resistance of the charge resistance element 2 (R_a) in drawing 3 and the discharge resistance element 3 (R_b) is $R_a \ll R_b$. It has become. Time of day t1 If the signal of drawing 4 (a) is impressed to Terminal a and a transistor 5 is made into an ON state, the charge of a piezoelectric device 4 discharges through the discharge resistance element 3 (R_b), a piezoelectric device 4 will increase the volume of a pressurized room, as shown in drawing 6 , and ink will be drawn in a pressurized

room. Predetermined time T1 Time of day t2 after progress By impressing the signal of drawing 4 (b) to Terminal b, and making a transistor 7 into an ON state, a transistor 6 will be in an ON state, as a piezoelectric device 4 is rapidly charged through the charge resistance element 2 (Ra) and it is shown in Fig. 7, the volume of the ink pressurized room 10 decreases and an ink droplet is breathed out from a nozzle 11, at the same time it sets and makes a transistor 5 into an OFF state.

[0004] The driver voltage wave of a piezoelectric device 4 is shown in drawing 4 (c). The falling curve of drawing 4 (c) is determined by the resistance welding time (T1) of the capacity, the discharge resistance element 3, and transistor 5 of a piezoelectric device 4, and a standup curve is determined by the resistance welding time (T2) of the capacity, the charge resistance element 2, and transistor 6 of a piezoelectric device 4. It is set up so that the regurgitation property of a request of all may be acquired.

[0005] It is an example of the ink jet recording head of the multi-nozzle mold on demand which drawing 8 prepares two or more ink jet recording heads, breathes out an ink droplet suitably according to a printing pattern, and records by the dot matrix, and drawing 9 is drawing showing the drive circuit. Drawing 9 forms the drive circuit of drawing 3 into a multi-nozzle, and the discharge circuit corresponding to the number of nozzles is constituted. However, about the charge circuit, it has become common to all nozzles and the diode 1-1 for antisuckbacks corresponding to the number of nozzles - 1-n are added. It is terminal a1 -an of drawing 9 here. When a printing command is added, a piezoelectric device 4-1 - 4-n will drive alternatively, and an ink droplet will be breathed out. It is indicated by JP,57-125060,A about this drive circuit, and since the switching element by the side of charge can consist of one when the number of piezoelectric devices increases and an element number can be reduced, it is used mostly. Since especially an ink jet recording device in recent years is in the inclination whose number of nozzles densification progresses and increases so that it may meet the demand of a raise in a quality of printed character, this method is very useful.

[0006]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] Generally some stray capacity surely exists in the circuit board which constituted the drive circuit, and when especially the number of nozzles increases and a circuit pattern becomes long, it becomes impossible however, to also disregard the value of stray capacity for the circuit which drives a capacitive load like the drive of a piezoelectric device. That is, as shown in drawing 10, it is D1 -Dn by existence of stray capacity 21 (although distributed over the everywhere on a substrate in fact, when it sees from a piezoelectric device drive circuit, it can express like drawing 10 equivalent). The discharge circuit and C1 which are expressed A charge circuit which

is expressed will be formed. In a multi-nozzle on-demand mold ink jet recording device, since a piezoelectric device drives alternatively according to a desired alphabetic character and a desired pattern, the number of the piezoelectric devices driven to coincidence also changes the degree of capital. when there be few nozzles drive to coincidence although it hardly appear in order to distribute the effect by stray capacity 21 for two or more nozzles when there be many piezoelectric devices drive to coincidence, it be $D1 \cdot Dn$. since only an inner specific path turn into a discharge circuit, the time constant of the charge and discharge of a piezoelectric device change a lot, it will start, - falling curve will change, a desired ink regurgitation property will no longer be acquire, and degradation of a quality of printed character will be cause. This situation is shown in drawing 11 $R > 1$ and drawing 12 . Drawing 11 expresses the comparison with the terminal voltage wave (W2) of the piezoelectric device at the time of driving only the terminal voltage wave (W1) of a piezoelectric device in case there is no effect of stray capacity, and one piezoelectric device. Drawing 12 expresses the comparison with the voltage waveform (W3) of the piezoelectric device at the time of driving the terminal voltage wave (W1) of a piezoelectric device in case there is no effect of stray capacity, and the piezoelectric device of plurality (eight [in this case, 1]). If it is in the condition of W3, there will be no regurgitation property top problem. Thus, the time constant of the charge and discharge of a piezoelectric device will change with the number of the piezoelectric devices to drive. Although it considered as law and reduction of the stray capacity of the circuit board itself was tried while preventing these problems, there are a problem of substrate area and a problem of cost and the effective solution could not become.

[0007] The purpose of this invention removes an above-mentioned fault, and offers the ink jet recording device which the regurgitation property was stabilized by the easy configuration and prevented degradation of a quality of printed character.

[0008]

[Means for Solving the Problem] The ink pressurized room in which the ink which should breathe out this invention is stored, and the nozzle which is open for free passage to an ink pressurized room, The inside of the charge switching element which is equipped with two or more sets of piezoelectric devices to which the variation rate of the wall of an ink pressurized room is carried out, and performs the charge and discharge of a piezoelectric device, and a discharge switching element, Prepare one side according to an individual and it establishes another side in each of two or more sets of piezoelectric devices common to two or more sets of piezoelectric devices. In the ink jet recording device of the multi-nozzle mold on demand which performs the charge and discharge of

a piezoelectric device according to a printing command, raises the fluid pressure of an ink pressurized room, and carries out the regurgitation of the ink droplet from a nozzle. While at least one or more capacitive loads are prepared, one side shares the switching element prepared common to a piezoelectric device among the charge and discharge circuits of a capacitive load and another side prepares the switching element according to individual, it is characterized by performing the charge and discharge of a capacitive load synchronizing with the charge and discharge of a piezoelectric device.

[0009]

[Function] When there are few piezoelectric devices driven by driving a capacitive load as mentioned above, change of the time constant of the piezoelectric device under the effect of the stray capacity of the circuit board can be reduced, and since the stable ink regurgitation property is acquired, an ink jet recording device without degradation of a quality of printed character can be offered.

[0010]

[Example] Hereafter, the example shown in a drawing explains this invention concretely.

[0011] The ink jet recording head used for this invention is completely the same as the conventional thing, and has structure of drawing 2. Moreover, the ink jet recording head formed into the multi-nozzle has structure of drawing 8. The actuation about the regurgitation of ink is completely the same as that of the above-mentioned.

[0012] Drawing 1 is a drive circuit diagram in which one example of this invention is shown. The load section (it is henceforth called the dummy load section) 27 constituted by a capacitive load (capacitor) 26, the resistance 23 for charge, diode 22, the resistance 24 for discharge, and the transistor 25 for discharge is added to drawing 6 of the conventional example. The configuration component of this dummy load section 27 is altogether mounted on the circuit board also including a capacitive load 26. The capacitive load 26 of the dummy load section 27 is driven like the piezoelectric device of 4-1 - 4-n synchronizing with the timing of a printing command of a piezoelectric device. (Charge actuation in an initial state is performed similarly.) It is terminal a1 -an that the piezoelectric device chosen among the piezoelectric devices of 4-1 - 4-n according to the printing command should be driven. Synchronizing with the printing signal (drawing 4) added, a signal is added to the terminal c of the dummy load section 27. The transistor 25 for discharge will be in an ON state with this signal, and the charge of a capacitive load 26 discharges through the resistance 24 for discharge. At this time, the charge of stray capacity 21 also discharges to coincidence through diode 22, the resistance 23 for charge, and the resistance 24 for discharge. Then, the transistor 25 for discharge will be in an OFF state, a signal will be added to the terminal b of drawing 1,

a transistor 6 will be in an ON state, and charge is performed to a piezoelectric device 4-1 ~ 4-n, and a capacitive load 26. (Charge to stray capacity 21 is also performed to coincidence at this time.) Work of the dummy load section 27 is described here. Suppose that the piezoelectric device chosen now was only 4-1. It is as having mentioned above for the charge of stray capacity 21 to discharge through diode 1-1, resistance 2-1, resistance 3-1, and a transistor 5-1, when there is no dummy load section 27, and to change the time constant of discharge of a piezoelectric device 4-1 (drawing 11 $R > 1$). If the capacitive load 26 of the dummy load section 27 is now driven synchronizing with the drive of a piezoelectric device 4-1, as for the charge of stray capacity 21, diode 1-1, resistance 2-1, resistance 3-1, the discharge path through a transistor 5-1, and the discharge path through diode 22, the resistance 23 for charge, the resistance 24 for discharge, and a transistor 25 will be formed. By setting the resistance 23 for charge, the resistance 24 for discharge, and a capacitive load 26 as a suitable value here, the amount of charges of the discharge path through diode 1-1, resistance 2-1, resistance 3-1, and a transistor 5-1 can be restricted, and the discharge time constant near the falling curve at the time of driving two or more piezoelectric devices which are shown in drawing 12 can be realized. The charge time constant near the standup curve at the time of driving two or more piezoelectric devices is realizable with a setup of a capacitive load 26 and resistance 23 at the time of charge. Also when the piezoelectric device to drive is set or more to two, natural equivalent effectiveness is acquired. (It becomes near by W3 correctly shown in drawing 12 .) That is, an always almost equivalent charge-and-discharge property is [** / according to / the number of the piezoelectric devices to drive] securable.

[0013] A setup of the resistance 23 for charge of the dummy load section 27, the resistance 24 for discharge, and a capacitive load 26 changes with the regurgitation property (size of whenever [effect / of a charge-and-discharge time constant]) of a recording head, the magnitude of the stray capacity on the circuit board, or distribution (it changes with arrangement and the circuit patterns of the component on the circuit board). Since what is necessary is just to acquire a charge-and-discharge property equivalent to the time of the drive of two or more piezoelectric devices fundamentally, while making capacity of two or more circuits **** and a capacitive load the same as the capacity of a piezoelectric device for the dummy load section, the resistance of charge-and-discharge resistance may be made the same as the resistance of a piezoelectric device drive circuit, respectively, and a multiple-times way may be driven to coincidence. However, when the point of an element number or a component-side product is taken into consideration, it is the good plan which is set up so that an almost

equivalent property may be acquired in one circuit or a small number of circuit. In this example, the good result was obtained by making capacity of a capacitive load into several times (about 2 to 5 times) of the capacity of a piezoelectric device, and setting the resistance of charge-and-discharge resistance to several [of the resistance of a piezoelectric device drive circuit / 1 (about 1 / two to 1/5)/]. In addition, since what is necessary is just to mount the configuration component of the dummy load section 27 of this example on the circuit board, if a desired property is secured in one circuit or a small number of circuit, it can carry out very cheaply.

[0014] In addition, when the high drive of precision is more required, a detection means to detect the number of the piezoelectric devices which drive the dummy load section to coincidence with two or more circuits ***** is established, it is changing the number of drives of the dummy load section according to a detection result, and amendment of the charge-and-discharge time constant of a piezoelectric device is not more finely depended on the number of deed drives, but the method of securing the homogeneity of the charge-and-discharge property of a piezoelectric device is also considered. When the demand level of a quality of printed character is higher, it can adopt if needed.

[0015]

[Effect of the Invention] As mentioned above, according to this invention, change of the charge-and-discharge time constant by stray capacity when there are few drive piezoelectric devices can be mitigated by the easy configuration, and the ink jet recording device whose regurgitation property was stable can be offered.

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DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] It is the circuit diagram showing one example of this invention.

[Drawing 2] It is structural drawing of an ink jet recording head.

[Drawing 3] It is the drive circuit diagram of an ink jet recording head.

[Drawing 4] It is the drive timing chart of an ink jet recording head.

[Drawing 5] It is drawing explaining discharging of an ink jet recording head.

[Drawing 6] It is drawing explaining discharging of an ink jet recording head.

[Drawing 7] It is drawing explaining discharging of an ink jet recording head.

[Drawing 8] It is structural drawing of a multi-nozzle on-demand mold ink jet recording head.

[Drawing 9] It is a multi-nozzle on-demand mold ink jet recording head drive circuit diagram.

[Drawing 10] It is the ink jet recording head drive circuit diagram of the conventional example.

[Drawing 11] It is drawing explaining the charge-and-discharge property of the piezoelectric device of the conventional example.

[Drawing 12] It is drawing explaining the charge-and-discharge property of the piezoelectric device of the conventional example.

[Description of Notations]

1-1, 1-2, 1-n Diode

2, 2-1, 2-2, 2-n Resistance element

3, 3-1, 3-2, 3-n Resistance element

4, 4-1, 4-2, 4-n Piezoelectric device

5, 5-1, 5-2, 5-n Transistor

6 Transistor

7 Transistor

8 Drive Power Supply Section

9 Recording Head

10 Ink Pressurized Room

11, 11-1, 11-n Nozzle

12 Diaphragm

13 Ink Tank

21 Stray Capacity

22 Diode

23 Resistance Element

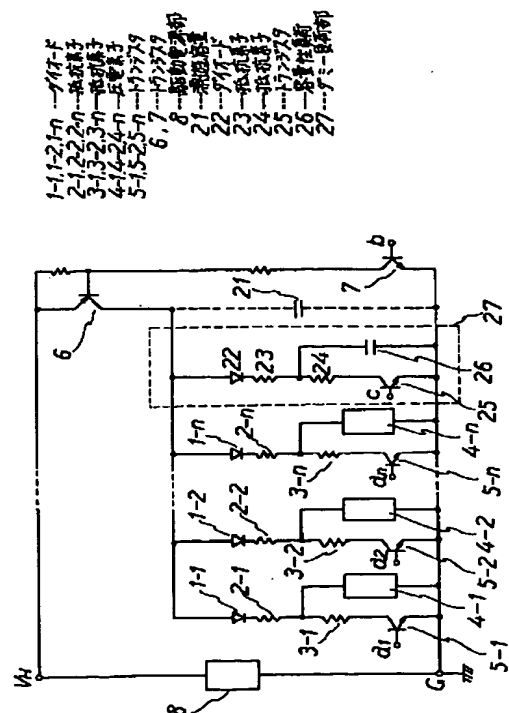
24 Resistance Element

25 Transistor

26 Capacitive Load

27 Dummy Load Section

[Translation done.]



(2)

【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 吐出すべきインクを貯えるインク加圧室と、該インク加圧室に連通するノズルと、前記インク加圧室の壁を変位させる圧電素子とを複数組備え、該圧電素子の充放電を行なう充電スイッチング素子と放電スイッチング素子のうち一方は複数組の前記圧電素子の各々に個別に設け、他方は複数組の前記圧電素子に共通に設け、印字指令に応じて前記圧電素子の充放電を行ない前記インク加圧室の液圧を高め前記ノズルからインク滴を吐出するマルチノズル・オンデマンド型のインクジェット記録装置において、少なくとも1つ以上の容量性負荷を設け、該容量性負荷の充放電回路のうち一方は前記圧電素子に共通に設けたスイッチング素子を共用し他方は個別のスイッチング素子を設けるとともに、前記圧電素子の充放電に同期して前記容量性負荷の充放電を行なうことを特徴とするインクジェット記録装置。

【発明の詳細な説明】

【0001】

【産業上の利用分野】 本発明はインク滴の吐出によって記録するところのインクジェット記録装置に関する。

【0002】

【従来の技術】 まずインクジェット記録ヘッドの動作原理を説明する。図2は、インク加圧室の一部の壁面に設けた圧電素子に駆動パルスを加してノズルよりインク滴を吐出し記録を行なうインクジェット記録ヘッドの一例である。図2の13はインクタンク、10はインクタンクと連通したインク加圧室、4は圧電素子、12は振動板、11はノズルである。図3は上記インクジェット記録ヘッドの駆動回路である。図4(a)～(c)は上記インクジェット記録ヘッドの駆動タイミングチャート及び駆動電圧波形である。図2、図3、図4によりインクジェット記録ヘッドの動作を説明する。図4の時刻 t_1 以前においてはトランジスタ7、トランジスタ6及びトランジスタ5はオフ状態にあり、圧電素子4はほぼ電圧 V_H に充電されている（記録装置の電源投入時に初期動作としてトランジスタ6をオン状態として充電抵抗素子2を介して充電を行なう。）。

【0003】 この状態が待機状態であり、図5に示すように圧電素子4はたわんでいる。図3における充電抵抗素子2(R_a)と放電抵抗素子3(R_b)の抵抗値は $R_a < R_b$ となっている。時刻 t_1 に端子aに図4

(a)の信号を加してトランジスタ5をオン状態とすると圧電素子4の電荷は放電抵抗素子3(R_b)を介して放電されてゆき圧電素子4は図6に示すように加圧室の容積を増やし加圧室にインクが引き込まれる。所定時間 T_1 経過後時刻 t_2 においてトランジスタ5をオフ状態にすると同時に図4(b)の信号を端子bに印加しトランジスタ7をオン状態とすることによりトランジスタ6がオン状態となり圧電素子4は充電抵抗素子2(R_a)を介して急激に充電され第7図に示すようにインク加圧

2

室10の容積が減少しノズル11よりインク滴が吐出される。

【0004】 図4(c)に圧電素子4の駆動電圧波形を示す。図4(c)の立ち下がり曲線は圧電素子4の容量と放電抵抗素子3とトランジスタ5の通電時間(T_1)により決定され、立ち上がり曲線は圧電素子4の容量と充電抵抗素子2とトランジスタ6の通電時間(T_2)により決定される。いずれも所望の吐出特性が得られるように設定されている。

【0005】 図8は、インクジェット記録ヘッドを複数個設け、印字パターンに応じて適宜インク滴を吐出してドット・マトリクスにより記録を行うマルチノズル・オンデマンド型のインクジェット記録ヘッドの一例であり、図9はその駆動回路を示す図である。図9は図3の駆動回路をマルチノズル化したものであり、ノズル数に対応した放電回路が構成されている。ただし充電回路については全ノズル共通となっておりノズル数に対応した逆流防止用のダイオード1-1～1-nを付加してある。ここで図9の端子 $a_1 \sim a_n$ に印字指令が加わることで圧電素子4-1～4-nが選択的に駆動されインク滴が吐出されることとなる。この駆動回路については特開昭57-125060に開示されており、圧電素子の数が増えた場合においても充電側のスイッチング素子が一つで構成できるので素子数が低減できるため多く用いられている。特に近年のインクジェット記録装置は高印字品質化の要求に応えるべく高密度化が進み、ノズル数が増える傾向にあるのでこの方式は極めて有益である。

【0006】

【発明が解決しようとする課題】 しかし一般に、駆動回路を構成した回路基板には必ず若干の漂遊容量が存在しており、特にノズル数が増えて回路パターンが長くなると圧電素子の駆動のような容量性の負荷を駆動する回路にとっては漂遊容量の値も無視できなくなる。つまり、図10に示すように漂遊容量21（実際には基板上のいたるところに分布しているが圧電素子駆動回路から見ると等価的に図10のように表せる）の存在により $D_1 \sim D_n$ で表すような放電回路と C_1 で表すような充電回路が形成されることとなる。マルチノズル・オンデマンド型インクジェット記録装置では所望の文字やパターンに応じて選択的に圧電素子が駆動されるので同時に駆動される圧電素子の数も都度変わる。同時に駆動する圧電素子数が多い場合には漂遊容量21による影響は複数ノズルに分散するためほとんどあらわれないが、同時に駆動するノズル数が少ない場合には $D_1 \sim D_n$ のうちの特定の経路のみが放電回路となるため圧電素子の充放電の時定数が大きく変化し、立ち上がり・立ち下がり曲線が変化することとなり、所望のインク吐出特性が得られなくなり印字品質の劣化を招いてしまう。この様子を図11、図12に示す。図11は漂遊容量の影響が全くない

(3)

3

場合の圧電素子の端子電圧波形(W1)と1つの圧電素子のみを駆動した場合の圧電素子の端子電圧波形(W2)との比較を表している。図12は漂遊容量の影響が全くない場合の圧電素子の端子電圧波形(W1)と複数(この場合は8つ)の圧電素子を駆動した場合の圧電素子の電圧波形(W3)との比較を表している。W3の状態であれば吐出特性上問題はない。このように駆動する圧電素子の数により圧電素子の充放電の時定数に変化してしまう。これらの問題を未然に防ぐ一方法として回路基板の漂遊容量そのものの低減を試みたが、基板面積の問題とコストの問題があり有効な解決策とはなり得なかった。

【0007】本発明の目的は上述の欠点を除去し、簡単な構成により吐出特性を安定させ印字品質の劣化を防いだインクジェット記録装置を提供するものである。

【0008】

【課題を解決するための手段】本発明は、吐出すべきインクを貯えるインク加圧室と、インク加圧室に連通するノズルと、インク加圧室の壁を変位させる圧電素子とを複数組備え、圧電素子の充放電を行なう充電スイッチング素子と放電スイッチング素子のうち、一方は複数組の圧電素子の各々に個別に設け、他方は複数組の圧電素子に共通に設け、印字指令に応じて圧電素子の充放電を行ないインク加圧室の液圧を高めノズルからインク滴を吐出するマルチノズル・オンデマンド型のインクジェット記録装置において、少なくとも1つ以上の容量性負荷を設け、容量性負荷の充放電回路のうち一方は圧電素子に共通に設けたスイッチング素子を共用し他方は個別のスイッチング素子を設けるとともに、圧電素子の充放電に同期して容量性負荷の充放電を行なうことを特徴とする。

【0009】

【作用】上述のように容量性の負荷を駆動することにより駆動する圧電素子の数が少ない場合においても回路基板の漂遊容量の影響による圧電素子の時定数の変化を低減でき、安定したインク吐出特性が得られるので印字品質の劣化のないインクジェット記録装置を提供できるものである。

【0010】

【実施例】以下、図面に示す実施例により本発明を具体的に説明する。

【0011】本発明に用いられるインクジェット記録ヘッドは従来のものと全く同じものであり図2の構造となっている。またマルチノズル化したインクジェット記録ヘッドは図8の構造となっている。インクの吐出に関する動作は前述と全く同様である。

【0012】図1は本発明の一実施例をしめす駆動回路図である。従来例の図6に対して、容量性負荷(コンデンサ)26と充電用抵抗23とダイオード22と放電用抵抗24と放電用トランジスタ25とにより構成される

4

負荷部(以後ダミー負荷部とよぶ)27が追加されている。このダミー負荷部27の構成素子は、容量性負荷26も含めてすべて回路基板上に実装される。ダミー負荷部27の容量性負荷26は圧電素子の印字指令のタイミングに同期して4-1~4-nの圧電素子と同様に駆動される。(初期状態における充電動作も同様におこなわれる。)印字指令に応じて4-1~4-nの圧電素子のうち選択された圧電素子を駆動すべく端子a1~an加えられる印字信号(図4)に同期して、ダミー負荷部27の端子cに信号が加えられる。放電用トランジスタ25はこの信号によりオン状態となり容量性負荷26の電荷は放電用抵抗24を介して放電される。このとき漂遊容量21の電荷もダイオード22と充電用抵抗23と放電用抵抗24を介して同時に放電される。続いて放電用トランジスタ25はオフ状態となり図1の端子bに信号が加えられトランジスタ6がオン状態となり圧電素子4-1~4-nおよび容量性負荷26に充電が行なわれる。(このとき漂遊容量21への充電も同時に行なわれる。)ここでダミー負荷部27の働きを述べる。いま選択された圧電素子が4-1のみであったとする。ダミー負荷部27がない場合は漂遊容量21の電荷がダイオード1-1と抵抗2-1と抵抗3-1とトランジスタ5-1を介して放電され、圧電素子4-1の放電の時定数を変化させてしまうことは前述した通りである(図11)。いまダミー負荷部27の容量性負荷26を圧電素子4-1の駆動に同期して駆動すると漂遊容量21の電荷はダイオード1-1と抵抗2-1と抵抗3-1とトランジスタ5-1を介した放電経路と、ダイオード22と充電用抵抗23と放電用抵抗24とトランジスタ25を介した放電経路が形成される。ここで充電用抵抗23と放電用抵抗24と容量性負荷26を適当な値に設定することにより、ダイオード1-1と抵抗2-1と抵抗3-1とトランジスタ5-1を介した放電経路の電荷量を制限でき、図12にしめすような複数の圧電素子を駆動した場合の立ち下がり曲線に近い放電時定数が実現できる。充電時においても容量性負荷26と抵抗23の設定により、複数の圧電素子を駆動した場合の立ち上がり曲線に近い充電時定数が実現できる。駆動する圧電素子が2つ以上になった場合もちろん同等の効果が得られる。(正確には図12に示すW3により近くなる。)つまり駆動する圧電素子の数によらずに常にほぼ同等の充放電特性が確保できるわけである。

【0013】ダミー負荷部27の充電用抵抗23と放電用抵抗24と容量性負荷26の設定は記録ヘッドの吐出特性(充放電時定数の影響度の大小)や回路基板上の漂遊容量の大きさや分布(回路基板上の素子の配置や回路パターンにより変化する)により異なる。基本的には複数の圧電素子の駆動時と同等の充放電特性を得ればよいので、ダミー負荷部を複数回路設け、容量性負荷の容量を圧電素子の容量と同じにするとともに充放電抵抗の抵

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5

抗値をそれぞれ圧電素子駆動回路の抵抗値と同じにして複数回路を同時に駆動してもよい。しかし素子数や実装面積の点を考慮すると、一回路もしくは少数回路でほぼ同等の特性を得るように設定するのが良策である。本実施例では容量性負荷の容量を圧電素子の容量の数倍（2～5倍程度）とし、充放電抵抗の抵抗値を圧電素子駆動回路の抵抗値の数分の一（ $1/2 \sim 1/5$ 程度）とすることにより、よい結果が得られた。なお本実施例のダミー負荷部27の構成素子は回路基板上に実装すればよいので、一回路もしくは少数回路で所望の特性を確保すれば極めて安価に実施できるものである。

【0014】なお、より精度の高い駆動が必要な場合は、ダミー負荷部を複数回路設けるとともに同時に駆動する圧電素子の数を検出する検出手段を設け、検出結果に応じてダミー負荷部の駆動数を切り替えることで、圧電素子の充放電時定数の補正をより細かく行ない駆動数によらず圧電素子の充放電特性の均一性を確保するといった方法も考えられる。印字品質の要求水準がより高い場合に必要に応じて採用できる。

【0015】

【発明の効果】以上のように本発明によれば、簡単な構成により駆動圧電素子が少ない場合における漂遊容量による充放電時定数の変化を軽減でき、吐出特性の安定したインクジェット記録装置を提供できる。

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】本発明の一実施例を示す回路図である。

【図2】インクジェット記録ヘッドの構造図である。

【図3】インクジェット記録ヘッドの駆動回路図である。

【図4】インクジェット記録ヘッドの駆動タイミング図である。

【図5】インクジェット記録ヘッドの吐出動作を説明する図である。

【図6】インクジェット記録ヘッドの吐出動作を説明する図である。

る図である。

【図7】インクジェット記録ヘッドの吐出動作を説明する図である。

【図8】マルチノズル・オンデマンド型インクジェット記録ヘッドの構造図である。

【図9】マルチノズル・オンデマンド型インクジェット記録ヘッド駆動回路図である。

【図10】従来例のインクジェット記録ヘッド駆動回路図である。

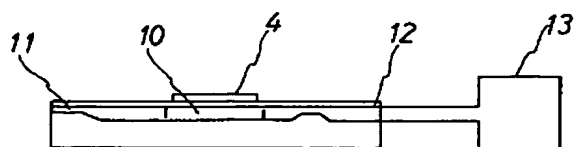
【図11】従来例の圧電素子の充放電特性を説明する図である。

【図12】従来例の圧電素子の充放電特性を説明する図である。

【符号の説明】

- 1-1、1-2、1-n ダイオード
- 2、2-1、2-2、2-n 抵抗素子
- 3、3-1、3-2、3-n 抵抗素子
- 4、4-1、4-2、4-n 圧電素子
- 5、5-1、5-2、5-n トランジスタ
- 6 トランジスタ
- 7 トランジスタ
- 8 駆動電源部
- 9 記録ヘッド
- 10 インク加圧室
- 11、11-1、11-n ノズル
- 12 振動板
- 13 インクタンク
- 21 漂遊容量
- 22 ダイオード
- 23 抵抗素子
- 24 抵抗素子
- 25 トランジスタ
- 26 容量性負荷
- 27 ダミー負荷部

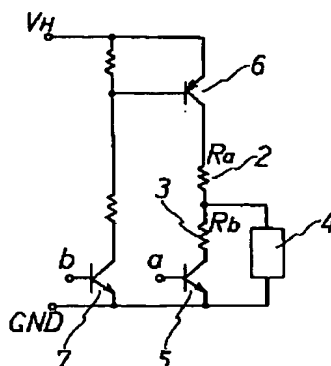
【図2】



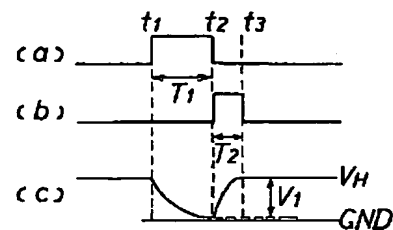
【図5】



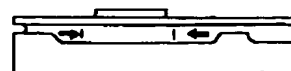
【図3】



【図4】



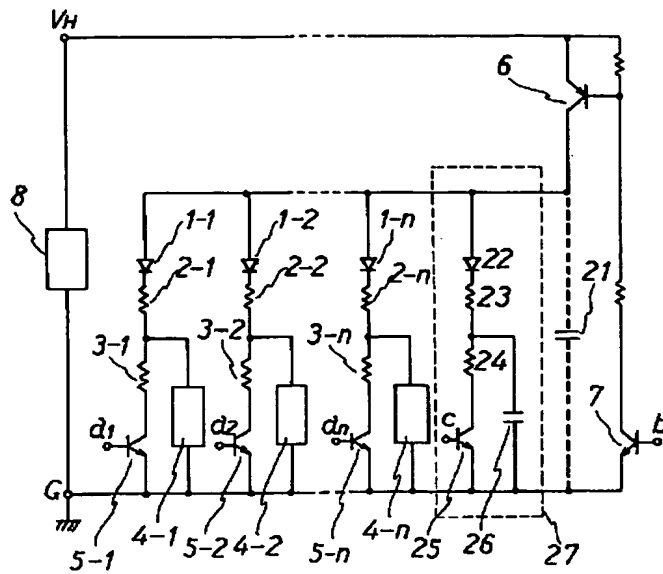
【図6】



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【図1】

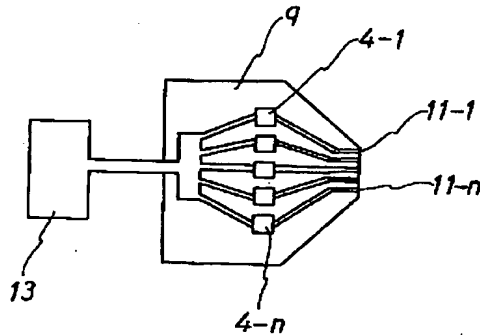


- 1-1, 1-2, 1-n ... ダイオード
 2-1, 2-2, 2-n ... 抵抗素子
 3-1, 3-2, 3-n ... 抵抗素子
 4-1, 4-2, 4-n ... 圧電素子
 5-1, 5-2, 5-n ... トランジスタ
 6, 7 ... トランジスタ
 8 ... 駆動電源部
 21 ... 漏洩容量
 22 ... ダイオード
 23 ... 抵抗素子
 24 ... 抵抗素子
 25 ... トランジスタ
 26 ... 容量性負荷
 27 ... デミ負荷部

【図7】

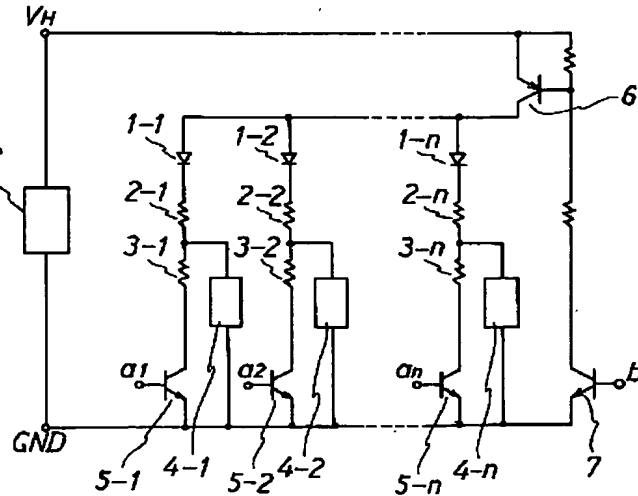


【図8】

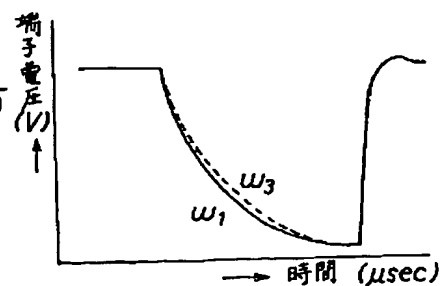
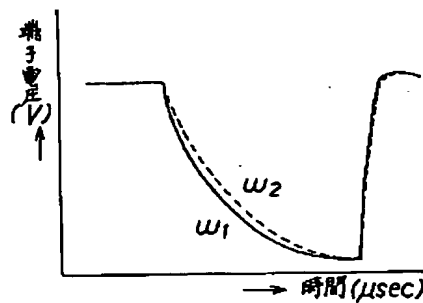


【図11】

【図9】

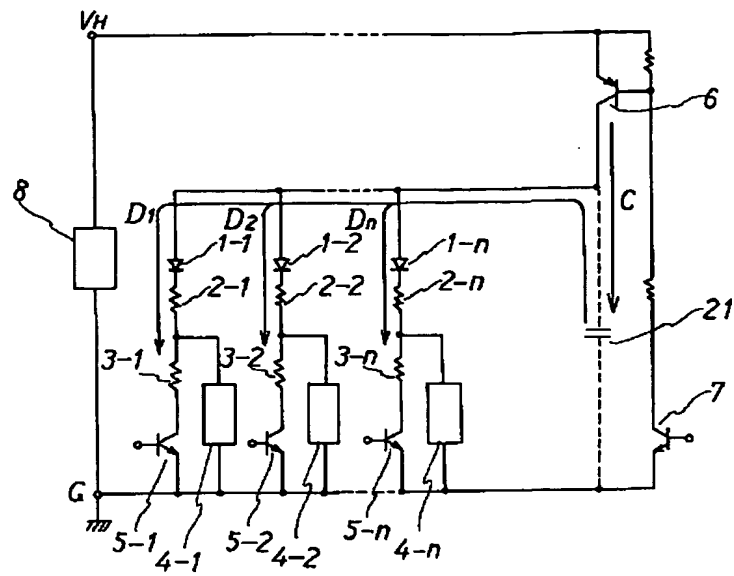


【図12】



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【図10】



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